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CIA Is Urged to Release Unclassified Information

By a WALL STREET JOURNAL Staff Reporter

WASHINGTON — After investigating the Central Intelligence Agency's work on Russian oil, a Senate committee has concluded that the spy agency should be more open with unclassified data.

The Senate Intelligence Committee said the CIA should release unclassified information "to the fullest extent possible," even if it "may run counter to the policies of a particular administration." Last year, President Carter was sharply criticized for using CIA data about oil shortages in the Soviet Union to sell his energy program.

The committee said the CIA has been largely correct about Soviet problems in producing oil as quickly as once considered likely. However, it quoted numerous experts who disagreed with the agency's prediction that the Soviet Union may be importing as much as 4.5 million barrels of oil a day by 1985. The group's report cited several reasons why Russia may be able to avoid this higher import level, even in the face of growing production problems. Among these were better conservation and government policies to reduce consumption. The CIA has previously acknowledged this as a possibility.

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